

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 HAVANA 04217 03 OF 07 061311Z
ACTION ARA-00

INFO OCT-00 ADS-00 AID-00 INR-10 SS-00 SCL-01 CIAE-00
DODE-00 H-01 NSC-01 NSAE-00 HA-08 L-03 LAB-04
PM-10 PA-01 OMB-01 SIL-01 USIE-00 SP-02 SNP-01
PRS-01 SLPD-01
(ADS) W

-----120425 161446Z /44

R 051845Z AUG 74
FM USINT HAVANA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5354

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 03 OF 07 HAVANA 4217

CARE OF THE SICK, THE HANDICAPPED AND THE ELDERLY.
PRIESTS OFTEN DO NOT WEAR ANY SYVBOLS OF THEIR
OFFICE, TO DIMINISH THE CHANCE OF DISCOVERY DURING
VISITS TO PRIVATE HOMES, BECAUSE THESE MIGHT BE
REPORTED AND CAUSE UNNECESSARY TROUBLE FOR THE FAMILY.

E. CATECHISM CLASSES ARE HELD FOR CHILDREN BUT
THE NUMBERS PARTICIPATING ARE NOT KNOWN. CHURCP
OFFICIALS STATE THAT THERE IS A MODEST GROWTH OF
CHURCH ATTENDANCE ON THE PART OF YOUNG ADULTS. AS
AN EXAMPLE, ONE PARISH IN HAVANA HAS PERFORMED AT
LEAST EIGHT PUBLIC BAPTISMS IN THE LAST YEAR. SEVERAL
WERE OF YOUNG ADULTS IN THEIR TEENS WHO ARE FREQUENTLY
SEEN IN CHURCH AND ARE ACTIVE PARTICIPANTS IN PARISH
ACTIVITIES. EIGHT IS A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER BECAUSE
THE ENTIRE PARISH IS COMPOSED OF ONLY ABOUT THIRTY
CUBANS WHO ATTEND CHURCH WITH FREQUENCY. CATECHISM
MATERIAL IS IN SHORT SUPPLY. THE QAPAL NUNCIO ATTEMPTS
TO FACILITATE IMPORTS OF MATERIALS, BUT WHAT THE CHURCH
WOULD LIKE IS NEW AUDIO VISUAL MATERIAL WHICH THE STATE
DOES NOT ALLOW IT TO IMPORT. SOME CUBAN EXILES
VISITING THE ISLAND REPORTEDLY BUY VIDEO CASSETTE
RECORDERS IN CUBA'S HARD CURRENCY STORES AND GIVE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 HAVANA 04217 03 OF 07 061311Z

THEM TO INDIVIDUAL CHURCHES. THE ARCHDIOCESE OF
HAVANA HAS RECENTLY COMPLETED AN AUDIO RECORDING
STUDIO FOR THE PRODUCTION AND DUPLICATION OF CASSETTE
TAPES TO DISSEMINATE CHURCH MUSIC AND LITURGICAL
MATERIALS. THE ARCHDIOCESE MADE AN EFFORT OVER
BOTH CHRISTMAS AND LENT TO GET AUDIO VISUAL MATERIALS

OUT INTO THE PARISHES. IN SPITE OF THE OLD EQUIPMENT, LANGUAGE BARRIERS (NOT ALL MATERIAL WAS IN SPANISH) AND INABILITY TO HAVE MORE THAN "REGIONAL" SHOWINGS FOR FIVE OR SIX PARISHES CONSOLIDATED INTO ONE GROUP, CUBAN CONTACTS REPORTED THAT ATTENDANCE AND INTEREST WAS HIGH.

F. IT APPEARS THAT BOTH THE VATICAN AND THE WEST GERMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH ARE PICKING UP MOST OF THE COST OF MAINTAINING A CATHOLIC PRESENCE IN CUBA, AS RECEIPTS FROM COLLECTIONS DO NOT BEGIN TO COVER BASIC COSTS OF MAINTAINING LARGE BUILDINGS. IN HAVANA, THE NUNCIO BUYS MEATS AND OTHER SCARCE ITEMS FOR PRIESTS AT THE DIPLOMATIC MARKET. CERTAIN CHURCHES IN TOURIST ZONES ARE BEING RENOVATED, PROVIDING A FOREIGN (HARD CURRENCY) DONOR IS FOUND. THE CATHEDRAL IN DOWNTOWN HAVANA IS BEING RESTORED WITH THE AID OF WEST GERMAN CATHOLICS, THOUGH THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT FREQUENTLY CLAIMS CREDIT.

G. ALL REQUESTS BY PRIESTS TO TRAVEL ABROAD MUST BE APPROVED BY THE CUBAN MINISTRY OF JUSTICE. THE RECORD HAS BEEN SPOTTY. THE RECTOR OF THE HAVANA SEMINARY STATED RECENTLY THAT HE HAS TRIED TO OBTAIN PERMISSION FOR TRIPS TO MEXICO, ROME AND THE U.S. DURING THE PAST YEAR, BUT WAS UNSUCCESSFUL DESPITE THE INTERJECTION OF THE PAPAL NUNCIO. OTHER

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 HAVANA 04217 03 OF 07 061311Z

CUBAN PRIESTS, HOWEVER, HAVE BEEN ALLOWED TO TRAVEL TO THE U.S. TO SEE THEIR FAMILY MEMBERS. CANADIAN AND SPANISH MISSIONARY PRIESTS THAT HAVE BEEN SERVING HERE SINCE BEFORE THE REVOLUTION ARE ALLOWED TO RETURN HOME EVERY TWO YEARS FOR A MAXIMUM TIME OF SIX WEEKS. IF THEY STAY LONGER, THEY FORFEIT THE RIGHT TO RETURN TO CUBA AS RESIDENTS. WHEN THE RECTOR WAS ASKED WHY THE PROTESTANT ECUMENICAL COUNCIL CHURCH GROUPS APPEARED TO HAVE LITTLE TROUBLE TRAVELLING OUTSIDE CUBA, HE REPLIED THAT THE COUNCIL HAS TO "PAY ITS POUND OF FLESH" BY COOPERATING WITH THE GOC ON POLITICAL MATTERS. FOR THE MOST PART, THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN CUBA CLAIMS NOT TO ALLOW ITSELF TO BECOME A TOOL FOR THE PROPAGANDA ORGANS OF THE GOVERNMENT (WHICH IS PERHAPS WHY IT IS DIFFICULT FOR SOME OF THE HIGHER LEADERSHIP TO TRAVEL).

THE MAINLINE PROTESTANT CHURCHES

10. CHURCHES IN THIS CATEGORY INCLUDE THE BAPTISTS, PRESBYTERIANS AND METHODISTS, REPRESENTATIVES FROM WHICH FORM THE CUBAN ECUMENICAL COUNCIL. ACCORDING TO THE PRESIDENT OF THIS COUNCIL, ADOLFO LAM, THERE ARE ABOUT 40,000 PROTESTANTS AFFILIATED WITH THE COUNCIL. THIS YEAR THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT APPROVED THE IMPORTATION OF 12,000 BIBLES PRINTED IN SPANISH IN SOUTH KOREA. BEFORE THE REVOLUTION, PROTESTANT CHURCH GROUPS IN CUBA WERE ALMOST TOTALLY SUPPORTED BY AND UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF THEIR SISTER CHURCHES IN THE U.S. AFTER THE REVOLUTION, THE COUNCIL OF PROTESTANT CHURCHES BROADENED CONTACTS WITH OTHER LATIN AMERICAN AND WESTERN EUROPEAN CHURCH GROUPS. CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 HAVANA 04217 03 OF 07 061311Z

RELATIONS WITH WEST GERMAN PROTESTANT GROUPS HAVE BEEN PARTICULARLY SUCCESSFUL.

11. IT IS DIFFICULT TO GAUGE THE RELATIVE INDEPENDENCE OF THESE MAINLINE PROTESTANT GROUPS ASSOCIATED WITH THE ECUMENICAL COUNCIL. REPRESENTATIVES FROM MANY FOREIGN CHURCHES (SEE BELOW) VISIT CUBA AND END UP, WITTINGLY OR NOT, ENDORSING CUBAN GOVERNMENT POLITICAL POLICIES. A NUMBER OF CUBAN PROTESTANT LEADERS ARE ALLOWED TO VISIT THE U.S. AND OTHER WESTERN NATIONS. THE DEGREE OF RELIGIOUS COMMITMENT OF THOSE ALLOWED TO VISIT IS ALSO DIFFICULT TO GAUGE. IN APRIL 1984, AN ELDERLY PROTESTANT MINISTER TOLD A USINT CONSULAR OFFICER THAT HE WAS VERY "CONCERNED" ABOUT WHAT HE TERMED "PENETRATION" OF THE CUBAN CHURCHES BY MEMBERS OF THE CUBAN INTELLIGENCE SERVICE.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 HAVANA 04217 03 OF 07 061311Z
ACTION ARA-00

INFO OCT-00 ADS-00 AID-00 INR-10 SS-00 SCL-01 CIAE-00
DODE-00 H-01 NSC-01 NSAE-00 HA-08 L-03 LAB-04
PM-10 PA-01 OMB-01 SIL-01 USIE-00 SP-02 SNP-01
PRS-01 SLPD-01
(ADS) W

-----120600 081900Z /44

R 051845Z AUG 74
FM USINT HAVANA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5354

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 03 OF 07 HAVANA 4217

CARE OF THE SICK, THE HANDICAPPED AND THE ELDERLY.
PRIESTS OFTEN DO NOT WEAR ANY SYVBOLS OF THEIR
OFFICE, TO DIMINISH THE CHANCE OF DISCOVERY DURING
VISITS TO PRIVATE HOMES, BECAUSE THESE MIGHT BE
REPORTED AND CAUSE UNNECESSARY TROUBLE FOR THE FAMILY.

E. CATECHISM CLASSES ARE HELD FOR CHILDREN BUT
THE NUMBERS PARTICIPATING ARE NOT KNOWN. CHURCP
OFFICIALS STATE THAT THERE IS A MODEST GROWTH OF
CHURCH ATTENDANCE ON THE PART OF YOUNG ADULTS. AS
AN EXAMPLE, ONE PARISH IN HAVANA HAS PERFORMED AT
LEAST EIGHT PUBLIC BAPTISMS IN THE LAST YEAR. SEVERAL
WERE OF YOUNG ADULTS IN THEIR TEENS WHO ARE FREQUENTLY
SEEN IN CHURCH AND ARE ACTIVE PARTICIPANTS IN PARISH
ACTIVITIES. EIGHT IS A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER BECAUSE
THE ENTIRE PARISH IS COMPOSED OF ONLY ABOUT THIRTY
CUBANS WHO ATTEND CHURCH WITH FREQUENCY. CATECHISM
MATERIAL IS IN SHORT SUPPLY. THE QAPAL NUNCIO ATTEMPTS
TO FACILITATE IMPORTS OF MATERIALS, BUT WHAT THE CHURCH
WOULD LUKE IS NEW AUDIO VISUAL MATERIAL WHICH THE STATE
DOES NOT ALLOW IT TO IMQORT. SOME CUBAN EXILES
VISITING THE ISLAND REPORTEDLY BUY VIDEO CASSETTE
RECORDERS IN CUBA'S HARD CURRENCY STORES AND GIVE

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 HAVANA 04217 03 OF 07 061311Z

THEM TO INDIVIDUAL CHURCHES. THE ARCHDIOCESE OF HAVANA HAS RECENTLY COMPLETED AN AUDIO RECORDING STUDIO FOR THE PRODUCTION AND DUPLICATION OF CASSETTE TAPES TO DISSEMINATE CHURCH MUSIC AND LITURGICAL MATERIALS. THE ARCHDIOCESE MADE AN EFFORT OVER BOTH CHRISTMAS AND LENT TO GET AUDIO VISUAL MATERIALS OUT INTO THE PARISHES. IN SPITE OF THE OLD EQUIPMENT, LANGUAGE BARRIERS (NOT ALL MATERIAL WAS IN SPANISH) AND INABILITY TO HAVE MORE THAN "REGIONAL" SHOWINGS FOR FIVE OR SIX PARISHES CONSOLIDATED INTO ONE GROUP, CUBAN CONTACTS REPORTED THAT ATTENDANCE AND INTEREST WAS HIGH.

F. IT APPEARS THAT BOTH THE VATICAN AND THE WEST GERMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH ARE PICKING UP MOST OF THE COST OF MAINTAINING A CATHOLIC PRESENCE IN CUBA, AS RECEIPTS FROM COLLECTIONS DO NOT BEGIN TO COVER BASIC COSTS OF MAINTAINING LARGE BUILDINGS. IN HAVANA, THE NUNCIO BUYS MEATS AND OTHER SCARCE ITEMS FOR PRIESTS AT THE DIPLOMATIC MARKET. CERTAIN CHURCHES IN TOURIST ZONES ARE BEING RENOVATED, PROVIDING A FOREIGN (HARD CURRENCY) DONOR IS FOUND. THE CATHEDRAL IN DOWNTOWN HAVANA IS BEING RESTORED WITH THE AID OF WEST GERMAN CATHOLICS, THOUGH THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT FREQUENTLY CLAIMS CREDIT.

G. ALL REQUESTS BY PRIESTS TO TRAVEL ABROAD MUST BE APPROVED BY THE CUBAN MINISTRY OF JUSTICE. THE RECORD HAS BEEN SPOTTY. THE RECTOR OF THE HAVANA SEMINARY STATED RECENTLY THAT HE HAS TRIED TO OBTAIN PERMISSION FOR TRIPS TO MEXICO, ROME AND THE U.S. DURING THE PAST YEAR, BUT WAS UNSUCCESSFUL DESPITE THE INTERJECTION OF THE PAPAL NUNCIO. OTHER

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 HAVANA 04217 03 OF 07 061311Z

CUBAN PRIESTS, HOWEVER, HAVE BEEN ALLOWED TO TRAVEL TO THE U.S. TO SEE THEIR FAMILY MEMBERS. CANADIAN AND SPANISH MISSIONARY PRIESTS THAT HAVE BEEN SERVING HERE SINCE BEFORE THE REVOLUTION ARE ALLOWED TO RETURN HOME EVERY TWO YEARS FOR A MAXIMUM TIME OF SIX WEEKS. IF THEY STAY LONGER, THEY FORFEIT THE RIGHT TO RETURN TO CUBA AS RESIDENTS. WHEN THE RECTOR WAS ASKED WHY THE PROTESTANT ECUMENICAL COUNCIL CHURCH GROUPS APPEARED TO HAVE LITTLE TROUBLE TRAVELLING OUTSIDE

CUBA, HE REPLIED THAT THE COUNCIL HAS TO "PAY ITS POUND OF FLESH" BY COOPERATING WITH THE GOC ON POLITICAL MATTERS. FOR THE MOST PART, THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN CUBA CLAIMS NOT TO ALLOW ITSELF TO BECOME A TOOL FOR THE PROPAGANDA ORGANS OF THE GOVERNMENT (WHICH IS PERHAPS WHY IT IS DIFFICULT FOR SOME OF THE HIGHER LEADERSHIP TO TRAVEL).

THE MAINLINE PROTESTANT CHURCHES

10. CHURCHES IN THIS CATEGORY INCLUDE THE BAPTISTS, PRESBYTERIANS AND METHODISTS, REPRESENTATIVES FROM WHICH FORM THE CUBAN ECUMENICAL COUNCIL. ACCORDING TO THE PRESIDENT OF THIS COUNCIL, ADOLFO LAM, THERE ARE ABOUT 40,000 PROTESTANTS AFFILIATED WITH THE COUNCIL. THIS YEAR THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT APPROVED THE IMPORTATION OF 12,000 BIBLES PRINTED IN SPANISH IN SOUTH KOREA. BEFORE THE REVOLUTION, PROTESTANT CHURCH GROUPS IN CUBA WERE ALMOST TOTALLY SUPPORTED BY AND UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF THEIR SISTER CHURCHES IN THE U.S. AFTER THE REVOLUTION, THE COUNCIL OF PROTESTANT CHURCHES BROADENED CONTACTS WITH OTHER LATIN AMERICAN AND WESTERN EUROPEAN CHURCH GROUPS.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 HAVANA 04217 03 OF 07 061311Z

RELATIONS WITH WEST GERMAN PROTESTANT GROUPS HAVE BEEN PARTICULARLY SUCCESSFUL.

11. IT IS DIFFICULT TO GAUGE THE RELATIVE INDEPENDENCE OF THESE MAINLINE PROTESTANT GROUPS ASSOCIATED WITH THE ECUMENICAL COUNCIL. REPRESENTATIVES FROM MANY FOREIGN CHURCHES (SEE BELOW) VISIT CUBA AND END UP, WITTINGLY OR NOT, ENDORSING CUBAN GOVERNMENT POLITICAL POLICIES. A NUMBER OF CUBAN PROTESTANT LEADERS ARE ALLOWED TO VISIT THE U.S. AND OTHER WESTERN NATIONS. THE DEGREE OF RELIGIOUS COMMITMENT OF THOSE ALLOWED TO VISIT IS ALSO DIFFICULT TO GAUGE. IN APRIL 1984, AN ELDERLY PROTESTANT MINISTER TOLD A USINT CONSULAR OFFICER THAT HE WAS VERY "CONCERNED" ABOUT WHAT HE TERMED "PENETRATION" OF THE CUBAN CHURCHES BY MEMBERS OF THE CUBAN INTELLIGENCE SERVICE.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 HAVANA 04217 03 OF 07 061311Z
ACTION ARA-00

INFO OCT-00 ADS-00 AID-00 INR-10 SS-00 SCL-01 CIAE-00
DODE-00 H-01 NSC-01 NSAE-00 HA-08 L-03 LAB-04
PM-10 PA-01 OMB-01 SIL-01 USIE-00 SP-02 SNP-01
PRS-01 SLPD-01
(ADS) W

-----045111 071827Z /44

R 051845Z AUG 74
FM USINT HAVANA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5354

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 03 OF 07 HAVANA 4217

CARE OF THE SICK, THE HANDICAPPED AND THE ELDERLY.
PRIESTS OFTEN DO NOT WEAR ANY SYMBOLS OF THEIR
OFFICE, TO DIMINISH THE CHANCE OF DISCOVERY DURING
VISITS TO PRIVATE HOMES, BECAUSE THESE MIGHT BE
REPORTED AND CAUSE UNNECESSARY TROUBLE FOR THE FAMILY.

E. CATECHISM CLASSES ARE HELD FOR CHILDREN BUT
THE NUMBERS PARTICIPATING ARE NOT KNOWN. CHURCP
OFFICIALS STATE THAT THERE IS A MODEST GROWTH OF
CHURCH ATTENDANCE ON THE PART OF YOUNG ADULTS. AS
AN EXAMPLE, ONE PARISH IN HAVANA HAS PERFORMED AT

LEAST EIGHT PUBLIC BAPTISMS IN THE LAST YEAR. SEVERAL WERE OF YOUNG ADULTS IN THEIR TEENS WHO ARE FREQUENTLY SEEN IN CHURCH AND ARE ACTIVE PARTICIPANTS IN PARISH ACTIVITIES. EIGHT IS A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER BECAUSE THE ENTIRE PARISH IS COMPOSED OF ONLY ABOUT THIRTY CUBANS WHO ATTEND CHURCH WITH FREQUENCY. CATECHISM MATERIAL IS IN SHORT SUPPLY. THE QAPAL NUNCIO ATTEMPTS TO FACILITATE IMPORTS OF MATERIALS, BUT WHAT THE CHURCH WOULD LIKE IS NEW AUDIO VISUAL MATERIAL WHICH THE STATE DOES NOT ALLOW IT TO IMPORT. SOME CUBAN EXILES VISITING THE ISLAND REPORTEDLY BUY VIDEO CASSETTE RECORDERS IN CUBA'S HARD CURRENCY STORES AND GIVE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 HAVANA 04217 03 OF 07 061311Z

THEM TO INDIVIDUAL CHURCHES. THE ARCHDIOCESE OF HAVANA HAS RECENTLY COMPLETED AN AUDIO RECORDING STUDIO FOR THE PRODUCTION AND DUPLICATION OF CASSETTE TAPES TO DISSEMINATE CHURCH MUSIC AND LITURGICAL MATERIALS. THE ARCHDIOCESE MADE AN EFFORT OVER BOTH CHRISTMAS AND LENT TO GET AUDIO VISUAL MATERIALS OUT INTO THE PARISHES. IN SPITE OF THE OLD EQUIPMENT, LANGUAGE BARRIERS (NOT ALL MATERIAL WAS IN SPANISH) AND INABILITY TO HAVE MORE THAN "REGIONAL" SHOWINGS FOR FIVE OR SIX PARISHES CONSOLIDATED INTO ONE GROUP, CUBAN CONTACTS REPORTED THAT ATTENDANCE AND INTEREST WAS HIGH.

F. IT APPEARS THAT BOTH THE VATICAN AND THE WEST GERMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH ARE PICKING UP MOST OF THE COST OF MAINTAINING A CATHOLIC PRESENCE IN CUBA, AS RECEIPTS FROM COLLECTIONS DO NOT BEGIN TO COVER BASIC COSTS OF MAINTAINING LARGE BUILDINGS. IN HAVANA, THE NUNCIO BUYS MEATS AND OTHER SCARCE ITEMS FOR PRIESTS AT THE DIPLOMATIC MARKET. CERTAIN CHURCHES IN TOURIST ZONES ARE BEING RENOVATED, PROVIDING A FOREIGN (HARD CURRENCY) DONOR IS FOUND. THE CATHEDRAL IN DOWNTOWN HAVANA IS BEING RESTORED WITH THE AID OF WEST GERMAN CATHOLICS, THOUGH THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT FREQUENTLY CLAIMS CREDIT.

G. ALL REQUESTS BY PRIESTS TO TRAVEL ABROAD MUST BE APPROVED BY THE CUBAN MINISTRY OF JUSTICE. THE RECORD HAS BEEN SPOTTY. THE RECTOR OF THE HAVANA SEMINARY STATED RECENTLY THAT HE HAS TRIED TO OBTAIN PERMISSION FOR TRIPS TO MEXICO, ROME AND THE U.S. DURING THE PAST YEAR, BUT WAS UNSUCCESSFUL DESPITE THE INTERJECTION OF THE PAPAL NUNCIO. OTHER
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 HAVANA 04217 03 OF 07 061311Z

CUBAN PRIESTS, HOWEVER, HAVE BEEN ALLOWED TO TRAVEL TO THE U.S. TO SEE THEIR FAMILY MEMBERS. CANADIAN AND SPANISH MISSIONARY PRIESTS THAT HAVE BEEN SERVING HERE SINCE BEFORE THE REVOLUTION ARE ALLOWED TO RETURN HOME EVERY TWO YEARS FOR A MAXIMUM TIME OF SIX WEEKS. IF THEY STAY LONGER, THEY FORFEIT THE RIGHT TO RETURN TO CUBA AS RESIDENTS. WHEN THE RECTOR WAS ASKED WHY THE PROTESTANT ECUMENICAL COUNCIL CHURCH GROUPS APPEARED TO HAVE LITTLE TROUBLE TRAVELLING OUTSIDE CUBA, HE REPLIED THAT THE COUNCIL HAS TO "PAY ITS POUND OF FLESH" BY COOPERATING WITH THE GOC ON POLITICAL MATTERS. FOR THE MOST PART, THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN CUBA CLAIMS NOT TO ALLOW ITSELF TO BECOME A TOOL FOR THE PROPAGANDA ORGANS OF THE GOVERNMENT (WHICH IS PERHAPS WHY IT IS DIFFICULT FOR SOME OF THE HIGHER LEADERSHIP TO TRAVEL).

THE MAINLINE PROTESTANT CHURCHES

10. CHURCHES IN THIS CATEGORY INCLUDE THE BAPTISTS, PRESBYTERIANS AND METHODISTS, REPRESENTATIVES FROM WHICH FORM THE CUBAN ECUMENICAL COUNCIL. ACCORDING TO THE PRESIDENT OF THIS COUNCIL, ADOLFO LAM, THERE ARE ABOUT 40,000 PROTESTANTS AFFILIATED WITH THE COUNCIL. THIS YEAR THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT APPROVED THE IMPORTATION OF 12,000 BIBLES PRINTED IN SPANISH IN SOUTH KOREA. BEFORE THE REVOLUTION, PROTESTANT CHURCH GROUPS IN CUBA WERE ALMOST TOTALLY SUPPORTED BY AND UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF THEIR SISTER CHURCHES IN THE U.S. AFTER THE REVOLUTION, THE COUNCIL OF PROTESTANT CHURCHES BROADENED CONTACTS WITH OTHER LATIN AMERICAN AND WESTERN EUROPEAN CHURCH GROUPS.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 HAVANA 04217 03 OF 07 061311Z

RELATIONS WITH WEST GERMAN PROTESTANT GROUPS HAVE BEEN PARTICULARLY SUCCESSFUL.

11. IT IS DIFFICULT TO GAUGE THE RELATIVE INDEPENDENCE OF THESE MAINLINE PROTESTANT GROUPS ASSOCIATED WITH THE ECUMENICAL COUNCIL. REPRESENTATIVES FROM MANY FOREIGN CHURCHES (SEE BELOW) VISIT CUBA AND END UP, WITTINGLY OR NOT, ENDORSING CUBAN GOVERNMENT POLITICAL POLICIES. A NUMBER OF CUBAN PROTESTANT LEADERS ARE

ALLOWED TO VISIT THE U.S. AND OTHER WESTERN NATIONS.
THE DEGREE OF RELIGIOUS COMMITMENT OF THOSE ALLOWED
TO VISIT IS ALSO DIFFICULT TO GAUGE. IN APRIL 1984,
AN ELDERLY PROTESTANT MINISTER TOLD A USINT CONSULAR
OFFICER THAT HE WAS VERY "CONCERNED" ABOUT WHAT HE
TERMED "PENETRATION" OF THE CUBAN CHURCHES BY
MEMBERS OF THE CUBAN INTELLIGENCE SERVICE.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 AUG 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: cunninfx
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974HAVANA04217
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: RR
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: HAVANA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740872/aaaackar.tel
Line Count: 522
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 10
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: cunninfx
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags: ANOMALY
Review Date: 22 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 MAY 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <24 FEB 2003 by cunninfx>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: n/a
TAGS: n/a
To: SECSTATE WASHDC
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005